



NOTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF AREA STANDING COMMITTEE & LADIES STANDING COMMITTEE

HELD ON: TUESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2021

AT: PERTH ICE RINK (AND VIA ZOOM) AT:10.00

(MEETING HELD PRIOR TO THE PRIESTFIELD CUP)

Present

Alan Chalmers, Alison Taylor, Andrew Kerr, Ann Gibb, Brenda Macintyre, Bruce Crawford, Corrie Lawrence, David Haggart, David McIntyre, Debbie Weir, Fiona McLaren, Graham Lindsay, Harry Brodie, Isla Kinnear, Jane Patterson, Janine Wilson, Jean Cousar, Jennifer Kubrycht, John McDermott, John McGowan, Lillian Carnegie, Lillias Hyslop, Liz Cullen, Lucy Tile, Marion Murdoch, Maureen Parker, Michele Brodie, Mike Caffyn, Mike Ferguson, Norman Ainslie, Philip Ross, Robert Carruthers, Robin Copland, Rona Craig, Sheilagh Macfarlane, Susan Kesley, Tom Kirk, Trevor Dodds, Michele Hartley (Minute Secretary LSC)

Apologies

Clare McCormick, Gail Munro, Janet Lynch, Karen Jack, Kate Caithness, Madeleine Sharp, Mary-Anne McWilliam, Nigel Forrest

1. Welcome

Susan Kesley welcomed everyone to joint meeting. Just a reminder that this is both a physical and Zoom meeting, so please bear this in mind to allow people on Zoom to have their say. The key point at the meeting is 'The Way Forward' for the ASC and LSC.

2. Apologies

As above

3. Previous Minute of last Joint Meeting (10th November 2020)

There were no comments from the previous minute.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports

President (Susan Kesley) – Susan gave a summary of her many commitments since she took up her post at the AGM in June 2021 including attending a WCF Meeting on Zoom to look at 8 vs 10 end issue. The WCF will be trialing different rules in the upcoming World Championships. However, any rule changes are still very much at discussion stage. Recently, Susan was asked to sit in on the Academy selections, which she found very interesting. She attended the funeral of Clive Thomson, Past President of RCCC (2016-2017) on 3 September.

Also attended 'This Girl Can Curl' event in Dumfries which Sophie Jackson organised. It was excellent with a talk from Hannah Miley, Scottish Olympic Swimmer, who was ably assisted by her pet dog, Poppy. Now that diary commitments have settled down, she now hopes to get out and about more to meet people in person.

Ladies Branch President (Lillian Carnegie) - Lillian gave a list of her diary commitments since May 2021. The LSC has continued to hold regular committee meetings and the first physical meeting was the Ladies Branch Opening Bonspiel in Forfar on 5 October. Lillian thanked everyone who attended and the staff at Forfar for making it such a sociable and successful day. At that meeting, Bruce Crawford announced that Lillian has now been co-opted on to the Board until the RCCC AGM next year. The LSC are all delighted with the news and this achievement is thanks to the hard work which Corrie Lawrence did with Scottish Curling in her reign as President, as Corrie was the first Lady President to be co-opted to the Board.

Unfortunately, there have been a few pull outs for Henderson Bishop for various reasons. Forfar Ice Rink's arrangements are well under way for preparing for the HB. Sadly, Lockerbie has pulled out of the Morton as they are unable to raise enough teams, but they hope to return next season. The first Morton match was held at Forfar Ice Rink on 25 October between Forfar and Inverness, which saw a win for Forfar.

Although the Ladies Tour to the USA has been postponed again until Oct/Nov 2022, the tour ladies have been meeting regularly and had a "mini-tour" away at the weekend.

LSC has produced curling cards for purchase 6 for £10, available from Alison Taylor.



Board (*Bruce Crawford*) - Two new independent Directors have joined the Board in September 2021 namely, Fraser Montgomery, an Accountant and Susan Nimmo, who works in Marketing. Kevin Troup has completed his 3 years' term and has stood down. There is now a full complement of independent directors on the Board. Membership is a priority for the Board and there are a number of issues which will be covered at the meeting today which the Board has not spent time discussing. This has been deliberate to ensure we have the right tools and systems in place to support the ice rinks to get back to the sport. There will be things that the Board will start addressing now that most of the ice rinks are open and some of the issues discussed today will set the terms of reference for the Board going forward. It is not that the Board doesn't think that these things are unimportant, but at this stage it is imperative that ice rinks see people curling.

The Return to Curling guidance which was produced throughout lockdown continues to be updated as and when the government makes changes, as SC needs to continue to react and keep information up to date.

We are halfway through our 2019-2023 Strategic cycle and the Board did a refresh in March 2021 and worked on the response to the recovery plan following Covid. A Covid Recovery section has been added within the reporting section, so that the Board can be more knowledgeable and aware of how we are progressing against the targets that have been set. Within that is the Risk Register which is now to be reviewed by the Audit committee and the Board. The Board has responsibility for some policies and has approved some amendments including the Complaints Policy which has been updated on the website and some other policies have been added which impact on the staff and members. These will be published in 'Your Curler' magazine.

The Board will now concentrate on getting new people into the sport as membership is sitting at circa 10k which is an all-time low. The Board is aware that a lot of work needs to go into initiatives to attract new people and keep existing members. There is a new and updated Try Curling website to give information to potential new members on how to join curling. Try Curling leaflets are available for distribution in the community (not ice rinks).

On the back of this there is a radio campaign starting this week, which will run for a month, on commercial radio about Try Curling. SC are using commercial radio stations to reach completely new audiences. There will also be video clips with various DJ's participating in curling to try and raise awareness of the sport.

National Curling Day on 15 November which will be held on the last day of radio campaign. Every ice rink should buy into the National curling Day and get local press for campaign. The original budget commitment set for the public image campaign was between £10k-20k. The projected overall cost will be circa £20k (radio campaign is £12k and additional expenditure for Try Curling tops up the overall expenditure to £20k).

6. **The Way Forward** (*ASC & LSC Discussion*)- Susan stressed that this is a preliminary discussion on the way forward for the ASC and LSC and to get the mood of representatives at the meeting (and on Zoom) whether they think both groups should operate together to form a much larger group or continue to operate separately. This is a decision which needs to be made by both ASC & LSC committees and not Scottish Curling. There was an email sent from Carrington Curling Club, some points made in the email do have an influence on different aspects of the way forward. Susan's own personal thoughts on the ASC and LSC is that there is a definite need to modernise to form a group which has more purpose and influence in the organisation. A simplistic idea would be that ASC and LSC come together to form a much larger and more powerful group which holds 3 or 4 meetings a year, with breakout groups working on specific projects/issues. One of these sub-groups could be the LSC, which would continue to be headed by a Lady President or Chair. Regular meetings are now a lot easier with Zoom and this avoids people having to travel the length and breadth of the country. We are already part of the way there as we already come together and any further changes should be small and organic. We do need a more effective communication flow between the Board, ASC, LSC and all our members.

Lillian agrees that there is a need change, especially now that the Board has evolved with younger members and agrees that Ladies Branch should remain, as it has for the last 60 years, effectively organising all national ladies competitions, tours and other events. There was disappointment over the last few years on moves within SC to remove the LSC altogether, but seeing the large vote received at the LB AGM for it to remain is testament to the hard work of LB members and its history.

Discussion/Action from the meeting

- Many curlers think that ASC is a men only committee and LSC is for ladies and why there are two ASC reps for each area? This is confusing to curlers as they are not sure which Area rep to speak to. The ASC has



area based reps, as it organises local area competitions. Men's and mixed competitions are organised by the Competitions Co-ordinator/Manager at Scottish Curling. LB reps are ice rink based as local reps organise all

women's competitions at their ice rink, tours and events. Is there a case for a gent's committee if LB continues as it is, as that is gender based? We should take the best bits of LSC and best bits of ASC and combine these to form a mixed gender group working and meeting together, with sub-groups to organise competitions etc. A Members National Committee type structure is the way forward with sub-groups, so we need to find out how that would look and how the combined group would operate.

- There was consensus that the current ASC/LSC structure works, but there is a definite need for both to communicate better and have a willingness to work together at a local level. Currently some ASC/LSC reps do not know their counterpart within LSC/ASC, so agreement was made that ASC and LSC reps should organise meetings between themselves to share information and to avoid any duplication of communication to curlers. A suggestion is that ASC/LSC reps could set up WhatsApp group between them which would make communication easier and quicker?
- ASC and LSC are requested to share their meeting minutes with each other.
- ASC and LSC reps should put up a photo of themselves on their ice rink noticeboard, giving information on their role and how they support their local curlers. This will put a face to the name and allow curlers to make easier contact with their rep with any issues or ideas.
- Everyone elected to represent their area/ice rink has to know they are being listened to by the Board as currently there is a disconnect with some ASC reps and the Board. A recent example was the lack of consultation with the ASC/LSC prior to the RCCC AGM on the proposed rule changes, as reps did not get the opportunity to discuss these with members at their ice rink prior to the AGM. We need much more communication from the Board to the ASC/LSC.
- The LSC is asked to think about how it engages with ladies who are not members of the ladies' section as they play in the evening. The LSC needs to widen its remit to include all ladies.
- Request for SC to use social media platforms to market the sport more, ie. more Scottish Curling training videos on YouTube, etc. Should SC look to have a Social Media Communications Manager who can concentrate on marketing on all platforms?
- The ASC/LSC will have 3-4 joint meetings per year. It is also suggested at a joint meeting with the Board would be useful, so reps get to know the Board members. Susan will organise a joint meeting at least 8 weeks prior to the AGM (late May/early June) to allow any AGM items to be fully discussed and debated. Zoom will be an option for all meetings.
- Request for SC need to formally acknowledge the Carrington CC email.

7. AOCB

- Board Meeting Minutes – Bruce Crawford will check that all Board Meeting minutes are available on the Scottish Curling website.
- Social aspects of curling – some ice rinks (Council run) have lost their bar/restaurant areas for curlers during Covid lock-down and it is difficult for local reps to organise any competitions at their ice rink without catering. There will be no attraction to new members and young curlers if there is no facility to socialise with fellow players. Mike Ferguson will take this issue forward. Bruce Crawford will persist in speaking with Active Stirling as curling at The Peak ice rink is not advertised on their website.
- Membership numbers - some ice rinks are worried about the drop in member numbers and the cost of running the ice rink. If the cost of curling increases again next year the membership numbers will continue to drop. Bruce Crawford confirmed this is a priority for the Board.

8. Future Meetings

Wednesday 23 February 2022 – Joint ASC & LSC Meeting in Dumfries and on Zoom.

There is a suggestion to have name badges for attendees at all future joint meetings.

9. Close

The meeting closed at 12 noon.